

Andria Pace

MacMillan Group Meeting

Literature Talk

October 4, 2022

What do you think about when I say forensic chemistry?







#### What do you think about when I say forensic chemistry?













#### What do you think about when I say forensic chemistry?



What are your preconceived notions of forensic science?





## What is Forensic Chemistry?

**Forensic science: qualitative or quantitative science?** 

#### What is Forensic Chemistry?

#### **Forensic science: qualitative or quantitative science?**





What is Forensic Chemistry?



#### Forensic science is really the combination of many disciplines!



French criminologist and anthropologist

- founder of the Bertillion system: 20 measurements for identification
- coined the concept of anthropometry: the first rudimentary forensic 'database'
- implemented a systematic method for photographing crime scenes

**Alphonse Bertillon** 

 $\bigcirc$ 

1879

#### Based on the assumption that no 2 individuals are alike



**Alphonse Bertillon** 

 $\bigcirc$ 

1879



Is this actually true?

Based on the assumption that no 2 individuals are alike

to gain statistically significant data, there must be no correlation between any of the measurements used



#### by the mid 1880's this theory was already being brought into question







- a national and international organization to uphold scientific standard
- supports research and education efforts surrounding forensic sciences
- hosts national meetings and conferences
- Journal of Forensic Sciences







DNA Analysis' first appearance in courtroom

 $\bigcirc$ 

1987

- a double murder in neighboring villages in Leicestershire was the first to utilize DNA profiling
- DNA samples were collected from both crime scenes, and the blood type matched a suspect, Richard Buckland
- DNA profiling by Jeffreys acquitted Buckland, and all males in the towns were asked to provide DNA samples
- An imposter claiming to be Colin Pitchfork came to give his sample



Malhi, R.; Hughes, C. (2020) Forensic Science: History and Development.



a national and international DNA databases

searchable databases to match crime scene DNA profiles to those in the database





Outline for the talk



Outline for the talk



### **DNA in Forensic Science**

Fingerprinting



Analytical Chemistry in forensic science

What types of analytical techniques are used in forensic chemistry labs?

# Analytical Chemistry









# Analytical Chemistry







## Analytical Chemistry in forensic science

#### What types of analytical techniques are used in forensic chemistry labs?

Analytical techniques are used for the analysis, identification, and confirmation of physical evidence



# Physical Evidence

#### **Physical Evidence**

...and how a forensic chemist may analyze this evidence



Take a simple carpet fiber, for example...

#### Physical Evidence



can show with certainty the identity of compounds present in the carpet sample

dye composition

mass signal

retention time

### Physical Evidence



#### Physical Evidence: Case Study

#### **Carpet Fiber Analysis Case Study**

dye analysis is a common technique in forensic investigations: hair, textiles, fibers found at crime scene



This carpet was proposed to be a 15th century Persian silk rug

#### How would a forensic chemist determine the age of the rug fibers?

### Physical Evidence: Case Study







#### **LC-MS** analysis

can show with certainty the identity of compounds present in the carpet sample

### Physical Evidence: Case Study

#### **LC-MS** analysis

identified the red carpet fiber as containing Congo Red, a dye created in 1884





#### **LC-MS** analysis

can show with certainty the identity of compounds present in the carpet sample

# Analytical Chemistry









Comparative analysis: how the crime lab comes into play

#### **Oklahoma State Crime Lab**

# Forensic Laboratory Disciplines



## Analytical Chemistry: Forensic Toxicology



#### **Reasons for Forensic Toxicological Analysis**

- *driving under the influence*
- drug-related homicides
- drug-related child endangerment
- drug-related sexual assaults
- poisons
- alcohol content

Marihuana, Schedule I Cocaine, Schedule II Methamphetamine, Schedule II



Alprazolam, Schedule IV

Oxycodone, Schedule II

Hydrocodone, Schedule II







#### Analytical Chemistry: Opiate Analysis



# Top Drugs Ecountered in 2020

Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation



Analytical Chemistry: Opiate Analysis



Malhi, R.; Hughes, C. (2020) CSI: Securing, Recording, and Analyzing Evidence.
# Analytical Chemistry: Opiate Analysis



## Analytical Chemistry: Opiate Analysis



Lancashire, R. Chemistry and Crime, 2014.

## Analytical Chemistry: Opiate Analysis



Malhi, R.; Hughes, C. (2020) CSI: Securing, Recording, and Analyzing Evidence.

# Case Study: pollen, potassium, phosphorus content on a soil sample at a grave



A sample of soil is taken from a grave as evidence





Soil sample from suspect

known soil composition

Let's show the math, all very quantifiable, assuming you have the data!!

# Case Study: pollen, potassium, phosphorus content on a soil sample at a grave



A sample of soil is taken from a grave as evidence

- Pollen: in 25% of soil
- Phosphorus: in 50% of soil
- Potassium: in 10% of soil

What is the probability of finding **all 3 in combination** in a sample?

Note: all events must be independent!

P(A and B)=P(A)\*P(B)=random match probability (RMP)

#### Case Study: pollen, potassium, phosphorus content on a soil sample at a grave



A sample of soil is taken from a grave as evidence

Pollen: in 25% of soil
Phosphorus: in 50% of soil
Potassium: in 10% of soil

What is the probability of finding **all 3 in combination** in a sample?

$$P(pollen) = 0.25$$
  $P(P) = 0.50$   $P(K) = 0.10$ 

Probability(P) = 0.25(0.50)(0.10) = 0.0125 = 1.25%

#### Case Study: pollen, potassium, phosphorus content on a soil sample at a grave



A sample of soil is taken from a grave as evidence

### **Case Study Part 2:**

- Remains are found that have a hip replacement implant (167482828) matching a batch of 100 implants with the same serial number
- It is known that there are 89,000 hip replacement parts in circulation in the US

*Probability of serial number(P) = 100/89,000 = 0.001 = 0.1%* 

# Case Study: pollen, potassium, phosphorus content on a soil sample at a grave



A sample of soil is taken from a grave as evidence

- Furthermore, soil was found underneath the individual's fingers. It was determined to be bentonite, which ~5% of the US population lives near
- Database returned a possible match: T.W. Dwight, who lived in and area with bentonite in the soil and had a hip replacement matching the serial number

Random Match Probability (RMP) = 0.001(0.05) = 0.00005 = 0.005%

*Probability of Identity (P) = 100%-0.005% = 99.995%* 

## Physical Evidence

#### what if you don't have specific data like % phosphorus in soil?

handwriting fingerprints tattoos Forensia Koppon are remainance men and uman work centra to the easues of 4007 and matter, and according 36

How many characteristics can you quantify before you can conclude it's a match?

Physical Evidence





more on fingerprints later

Yang, J. Minutiae-based Fingerprint Extraction and Recognition in *Biometrics*, 2011.

Outline for the talk



Outline for the talk





## **DNA in Forensic Science**

Fingerprinting





Malhi, R.; Hughes, C. (2020) Heredity and Environment-DNA and Phenotypic Variation.



### historical genetics

Malhi, R.; Hughes, C. (2020) Heredity and Environment-DNA and Phenotypic Variation.

# **Population Genetics**

#### The study of the total pattern of genetic variation of a biological population



### Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium

Freq. of **AA**: p<sup>2</sup> Freq. of **Aa**: 2pq Freq. of **aa**: q<sup>2</sup>

 $p^2 + 2pq + q^2 = 1$ 



Wilhelm Weinberg

allele frequency: relative proportion of alleles within a population

genotype frequency =	individuals with each genotype		
	individuals in population		

Malhi, R.; Hughes, C. (2020) Heredity and Environment-DNA and Phenotypic Variation.

Godfrey Harold Hardy



# Two main types of DNA markers used in forensic science

short tandem repeats (STRs)

single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP)

STR Locus ACC ACC ACC ACC ACC C

**STR variation: 2-6 base pairs** 

"AT" = 2 nucleotides

"CGG" = 3 nucleotides

"ATAG" = 4 nucleotides



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# Two main types of DNA markers used in forensic science

#### short tandem repeats (STRs)

single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP)



#### How are STRs used in forensic genetics?

- there is also lots of variation among individuals: great for identification purposes
- compare STR alleles in DNA evidence sample to suspect sample.

# Types of DNA



# Types of DNA



#### Why is mtDNA often used in missing person's cases involving skeletal remains?

Workflow for analyzing DNA

### Workflow for analyzing DNA

TOP OF GEL (-)

5

6 7 8

4

Well# 1

2

3



genetic analyzer: automates electrophoresis

#### Workflow for analyzing DNA



#### **Genetic Analyzer**

- runs through a capillary instead of a gel
- fluorescent tag added to the amplified DNA fragment during PCR. The tag will fluoresce in the presence of a laser
- standards are run with specific fluorescent tags so you can calibrate.

### Workflow for analyzing DNA



capillaries originate here

plates containing DNA are loaded at the bottom



#### **DNA** marker alleles present

estimated by the use of dyes specific for the SNP or STR of interest

The dyes fluoresce, emitting light of different colors when passing through the laser.

Each time a marker passes through the laser and fluoresces, it's represented by a colored peak.



Y axis provides information of the strength of the signal

homozygous: height of peak is larger

Fragment size is represented by the location of the colored peak along the horizontal axis.

#### **Example: amelogenin locus (found on sex chromosomes)**

y chromosome version is 6 base pairs longer than the X chromosome version



- male: 2 medium sized peaks that are 6 base pairs apart (one X and one Y chromosome)
  - female: 1 large peak (two X chromosomes)

### **Can DNA demand a verdict?**

restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP), shown below, is an older DNA -profiling technique that has largely been replaced by PCR

- In order to analyze a sample, enough DNA to get an accurate, quantifiable reading is needed
- In its early days, DNA analysis required an evidence sample at least the size of a dime.

Today, PCR technology allows accurate DNA analysis from very tiny amounts of material, even just from the butt of a cigarette





### **Can DNA demand a verdict?**

originally known as "DNA fingerprinting", but now known as "DNA profiling" or "DNA testing" to distinguish it from traditional skin fingerprinting

DNA Analysis' first appearance in courtroom

 $\bigcirc$ 

1987

DNA is used in **less than 1%** of all criminal cases

Present



**Can DNA demand a verdict?** 



on average, any two people share 99.9% of their DNA, so only 0.1% of DNA is actually individually unique!

Remember, our DNA consists of about 3 billion base pairs, so that leaves about 3 million unique base pairs per individual

the only exception is identical twins, who share 100% of their DNA



**Can DNA demand a verdict?** 



What about blood relatives?

If the DNA profile from a piece of evidence is similar but not identical to that of a suspect, officials may investigate blood relatives of the suspect.

#### **Can DNA demand a verdict?**

**Crime Scene DNA** 



**DNA** profile

combination of alleles that is specific to a person



**Recall match probability** the chance that a DNA profile chosen at random from the population will match that from the crime scene

The lower the probability, the stronger the evidence that the suspect committed the crime.

STR loci are not linked = independent evidence

### What is the probability of a randomly selected person having allele 10 for a particular STR locus?



#### What is the probability of a randomly selected person having allele 10 for a particular STR locus?

allele frequencies calculated first: P(allele 10)=p=109/432=0.25 P(allele 11)=q=134/432=0.31 P(allele 8)=p=229/432=0.53



allele frequencies estimated from samples of the population

allele 10

DNA Profile		Allele frequency from database				Genotype frequency for locus	
Locus	Alleles	Times allele observed	Size of database	Frequency		Formula	Number
CSF1PO	10	109	432	p=	0.25	2pq	0.16
	11	134		q=	0.31		
ТРОХ	8	229	432	p=	0.53	p <sup>2</sup>	0.28
	8						

### What is the probability of a randomly selected person having allele 10 for a particular STR locus?





allele 10


## What is the probability of a randomly selected person having allele 8 for a particular STR locus?





#### for homozygous genotypes

random inheritance of a genotype 8 for TPOX

 $P(8,8)=p(p)=p^2=0.16$ 

DNA Profile		Allele frequency from database				Genotype frequency for locus	
Locus	Alleles	Times allele observed	Size of database	Frequency		Formula	Number
CSF1PO	10	109	432	p=	0.25	2pq	0.16
	11	134		q=	0.31		
трох	8	229	432	p=	0.53	p <sup>2</sup>	0.28
	8						



What is the probability of a person having the combined genotypes of 10, 11 and 8,8 for CSF1PO and TPOX



allele 8,8 allele 10, 11

P(10,11 and 8,8)= P(10,11)\*P(8,8) = random match probability (RMP)

= 0.16(0.28) = 0.045 = 4.5%

DNA Profile		Allele frequency from database				Genotype frequency for locus	
Locus	Alleles	Times allele observed	Size of database	Frequency		Formula	Number
CSF1PO	10	109	420	p=	0.25	2pq	0.16
	11	134	432	q=	0.31		
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	8						

What is the probability of a person having the combined genotypes of 10, 11 and 8,8 for CSF1PO and TPOX



allele 8,8 allele 10, 11

## P(10,11 and 8,8)= P(10,11)\*P(8,8) = random match probability (RMP)

The most important concept for crime scene DNA matches!!

must use multiple loci to get more accurate RMP and accurately pinpoint identity

acceptable RMP is  $>10^{-8}$  or 0.000001%

## <u>Co</u>mbined <u>D</u>NA <u>Index</u> <u>System</u>



a national and international DNA databases

searchable databases to match crime scene DNA profiles to those in the database



13 unlinked (independent) STR loci with high heterozygosity

allele sizes range from 100-400

Malhi, R.; Hughes, C. (2020) Forensic Science: History and Development.

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## <u>Co</u>mbined <u>D</u>NA <u>Index</u> <u>System</u>

#### **Genetic Analyzer Plot**

## **CODIS STRs shown**



Malhi, R.; Hughes, C. (2020) Forensic Science: History and Development.





#### heteroplasmy can occur, which can distort a DNA match

specific to the individual with the mutation (and then their offspring

common in hair shaft samples

#### Y STR Positions along Y Chromosome



#### paternally inherited only used for paternity testing, genealogy DNA testing, and forensics matching

inherited directly from father so no variation from parent to offspring



#### can be used successfully for exclusion tests

If son has different STRs than father, paternity can be ruled out

#### Paternity tests using DNA analysis

uses up to 15 DNA markers (including the CODIS markers)



#### can be used successfully for exclusion tests

If son has different STRs than father, paternity can be ruled out

#### Paternity tests using DNA analysis

#### uses up to 15 DNA markers (including the CODIS markers)

Locus	Alleged Father	Child	Parentage Index
D2S1338	12, 13	8, 9	0.00
D2S1358	8, 11	13, 14	0.00
D8S1179	21.2, 32	19, 21.2	0.675
D10S1008	7, 12	15, 18	0.00
D14S1537	9, 14	11, 14	0.797
D19S433	15, 18	12, 15	1.338



#### can be used successfully for exclusion tests

If son has different STRs than father, paternity can be ruled out

#### Paternity tests using DNA analysis

#### uses up to 15 DNA markers (including the CODIS markers)



larger PI= a more rare allele, higher likelihood there is a match



## Paternity tests using DNA analysis

#### uses up to 15 DNA markers (including the CODIS markers)

Locus	Alleged Father	Child	Parentage Index
D2S1338	12, 13	10, 12	1.845
D2S1358	8, 11	11, 14	2.714
D8S1179	21.2, 32	19, 21.2	3.675
D19S433	15, 18	12, 15	8.338
Combined Parentage Ind	153.435		
Probability of Paternity:		99.348%	

#### Combined Parentage Index must reach 100 for a match

correlates to a probability of paternity of 99.0000%

How can you analyze data in cases where crime scene samples are mixtures of victim and assailant's DNA?



autosomal STRs and mtDNA for the victim and the assailant will be mixed in the sample and challenging to decipher



**Crime Scene DNA** 



#### **Recall match probability**

the chance that a DNA profile chosen at random from the population will match that from the crime scene

Y Chromosome analysis has similar issue as mtDNA for RMPs violates assumptions of random and independent variables

#### **Case study: Thomas Jefferson Paternity Scandal**



Paternity of Easton Hemmings was hypothesized to be owner, Thomas Jefferson



Written record also suggested Samuel Carr, a son of President Jefferson's sister, as the father

Jefferson had no confirmed, living male children, so a paternal uncle of the President, Field Jefferson, was compared.

Foster, E.; Jobling, M.; Taylor, P.; Donnelly, P.; Knijff, P.; Mieremet, R.; Zerjal, T.; Tyler-Smith, C. Nature 1998, 396, 27.

#### **Case study: Thomas Jefferson Paternity Scandal**



Paternity of Easton Hemmings was hypothesized to be owner, Thomas Jefferson



Y chromosome analysis ruled out Carr and confirmed a Y chromosome from the male Jefferson line

**DNA** analysis of family lines is incredibly powerful!

Foster, E.; Jobling, M.; Taylor, P.; Donnelly, P.; Knijff, P.; Mieremet, R.; Zerjal, T.; Tyler-Smith, C. Nature 1998, 396, 27.

We have talked about how powerful DNA evidence is, but is it also fallible?



"in the three decades since DNA emerged as a forensic tool, courts have rarely been skeptical about its power. When the technique of identifying people by their genes was invented, it seemed like just the thing the rustic system had always been waiting for: Bare, scientific fact that could circumvent the problems of human perception, motivation, and bias."

"a mystical aura of definitiveness often surrounds the value of DNA evidence,"

"In most cases, this aura is deserved. The method is unequivocal when it tests a large quantity of one person's well-preserved genes, when it's clear how that evidence arrived at a crime scene, and then the lab makes no errors in its work."

#### **Case Study 1: Conviction of Lukis Anderson**



homeless individual living in San Jose, California

charged with the murder of Raveesh Kumra, a 66 year old investor in silicon Valley

#### His DNA was found under Kumra's fingernails, but does this prove he did it?

It was later determined that he was in a hospital the entire night of the murder.

Worth, K. (2018) Framed for Murder by his Own DNA.

#### **Case Study 1: Conviction of Lukis Anderson**





Study in *Nature* found that objects handled event transiently can possess enough DNA to get an accurate DNA profile

Oorschot, R.; Jones, M. Nature 1997, 387, 767.



## DNA was found on surfaces that did not belong to any participant!

Goray, M.; Oorschot, R. Legal Medicine 2015, 17, 82.

## Can we systematically study transient DNA transfer?



Public Items

**Private Samples** 

**Activity-Related Samples** 

**Washing Machine Samples** 

Berge, M.; Ozcanhan, G.; Zijlstra, S.; Lindenbergh, A.; Sijen, T. Forensic Science International: Genetics 2016, 21, 81.

#### Can we systematically study transient DNA transfer?





Berge, M.; Ozcanhan, G.; Zijlstra, S.; Lindenbergh, A.; Sijen, T. Forensic Science International: Genetics 2016, 21, 81.

## DNA Evidence and Forensic Anthropology

What other fields of forensic science is understanding DNA analysis critical for?

## Nobel Prize in Medicine/Physiology 2022





#### Svante Pääbo, 2022

"for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominids and human evolution."

## Nobel Prize in Medicine/Physiology 2022

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# Ancient DNA reveals tryst between extinct human species

Woman had a Neanderthal mother and a Denisovan father.





Bone of a young female unearthed from Russia's Denisova valley in 2012

## Nobel Prize in Medicine/Physiology 2022

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# Ancient DNA reveals tryst between extinct human species

Woman had a Neanderthal mother and a Denisovan father.



Bone of a young female unearthed from Russia's Denisova valley in 2012

## So what are our takeaways for forensic analysis of DNA?



Outline for the talk



Outline for the talk







## Fingerprinting

**Forensic Specialties** 

#### Fingerprints are a reproduction of skin ridges found on the palm side of the fingers and thumbs

**dactylocopy**: the study of fingerprints, the most common form of lophoscopy



**lophoscopy:** identification and classification of the marks left by the papillary ridges of the skin

#### traditional fingerprint principles in criminal investigations

- fingerprints have general ridge patterns that permit them to be systematically classified
- a fingerprint is an individual characteristic: no two fingerprints are identical
- a fingerprint remains unchanged during an individual's lifetime

Fingerprints are a reproduction of skin ridges found on the palm side of the fingers and thumbs



#### Fingerprints are a reproduction of skin ridges found on the palm side of the fingers and thumbs









Loop

Arch

Whorl



Loop

## **Double Loop Whorl**

~65% of the population have loop fingerprints



#### ridges

characterized by a ridge that enters from one side and exits on the same side


Arch

~5% of the population have arch fingerprints

- have ridges that enter one side and exit the other side
- tented arches have a more angled ridge



Plain arch



tented arch



Whorl

~30% of the population have whorl fingerprints

whorls have two deltas, and most have ridges that form a continuous circuit between the deltas



**Central pocket whorl** 





### accidental whorl

plain whorl

#### **Simple Fingerprinting workflow**



### **Simple Fingerprinting workflow**





#### **Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)**

utilizing the ability of a computer to scan and digitally encode fingerprints so that they can be subject to high-speed computer processing

### **Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)**



Very powerful tool! A print can be taken from a crime scene and compared to a national database

### There are 3 types of fingerprints that can be found at a crime scene

visible print the finger deposits a visible material (blood, ink, etc.) onto a surface





plastic print a fingerprint impressed in a soft surface (soap, putty, etc.)

#### There are 3 types of fingerprints that can be found at a crime scene

**visible print** the finger deposits a visible material (blood, ink, etc.) onto a surface



plastic print a fingerprint impressed in a soft surface (soap, putty, etc.)



#### There are 3 types of fingerprints that can be found at a crime scene



#### latent print

made when body perspiration and/or oils are transferred to a surface cannot be seen unless a chemical or physical process is performed

Quick review of oil secretions in the body: 3 types of glands responsible

### sebaceous glands

primarily located on the chest, back, and forehead

#### apocrine glands

concentrated in the groin, arm pits, and perianal area



### eccrine glands

found all over the body, but particularly numerous on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet



most latent fingerprints also contain lipid material from the sebaceous glands due to contamination from touching the face, hair, etc.

#### therefore, eccrine gland secretions are the most important for fingerprinting



### a good quality latent fingerprint will generally contain ~1000ng of material

Source	Inorganic constituents	Organic constituents
Eccrine glands	Chloride Metal ions (Na <sup>+</sup> , K <sup>+</sup> , Ca <sup>2+</sup> ) Sulfate Phosphate Ammonia Water	Amino acids Urea Uric acid Lactic acid Sugars Creatinine Choline
Apocrine glands	Iron Water	Proteins Carbohydrates Sterols
Sebaceous glands	-	Fatty acids Glycerides Hydrocarbons Alcohols

latent print: can't see with the naked eye



**Physical visualization** 

**Chemical visualization** 

Source	Inorganic constituents	Organic constituents
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### What are the advantages and disadvantages to each method?



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### **Types of Powder Fingerprinting**

- traditional powder fingerprinting
- magnetic powder fingerprinting
- powder fingerprinting on wet surfaces

### What are the advantages and disadvantages to each method?



there have been many formulas used for fingerprinting powder (graphite, metal oxides, sulfates, carbonates)

the most common chemical now is aluminum flake powder





- flat, plate-like structure of aluminum with each particle coated with a surface layer of stearic acid
- coats well to fingerprints, aluminum has a good hardness and reflectivity aids in photography and transfer of fingerprints
- a magnetic variant with iron mixed in can be a less destructive method of applying powder with a magnetic wand (no bristles come into contact with the fingerprint)

there have been many formulas used for fingerprinting powder (graphite, metal oxides, sulfates, carbonates)

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there have been many formulas used for fingerprinting powder (graphite, metal oxides, sulfates, carbonates)

10-20µm in diameter





the most common chemical now is aluminum flake powder

a ball-milling process is used to form the flakes from aluminum metal there have been many formulas used for fingerprinting powder (graphite, metal oxides, sulfates, carbonates)

10-20µm in diameter







flat, plate-like structure of aluminum with each particle coated with a surface layer of stearic acid there have been many formulas used for fingerprinting powder (graphite, metal oxides, sulfates, carbonates)

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granular powders are also used iron added to make it magnetic



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What are the advantages and disadvantages to each method?

coats well to fingerprints, aluminum has a good hardness and reflectivity aids in photography and transfer of fingerprints

the magnetic variant with iron mixed in can be a less destructive method of applying powder with a magnetic wand (no bristles come into contact with the fingerprint)

granular powders are also used iron added to make it magnetic



10-20µm in diameter





### What do we do if the surface is wet?

Traditional powder reagents certainly will not work

Small Particle reagent (SPR) is a method of wet powdering for wet, nonporous surfaces



- Small Particle reagent (SPR): prepared from powdered MoS<sub>2</sub> and an aqueous detergent
- the MoS<sub>2</sub> particles adhere to the greasy, water-insoluble components of the latent fingerprint
- other metal compounds such as Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and ZnCO<sub>3</sub> have been employed



### What are the advantages and disadvantages to each method?



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staining with physical developer (PD)

What are the advantages and disadvantages to each method?



cyanoacrylate vapor chamber

#### **Cyanoacrylate Fuming**

cyanoacrylate esters are colorless, monomeric liquids used in commercial adhesives, such as superglue

- 1) cyanoacrylate vapor formed by heating
- 2) polymerizes when it comes into contact with the moisture and alcohols present in latent fingerprint ridges



### Cyanoacrylate Fuming

cyanoacrylate esters are colorless, monomeric liquids used in commercial adhesives, such as superglue









cyanoacrylate vapor chamber



cyanoacrylate vapor chamber

#### **Cyanoacrylate Fuming**

cyanoacrylate esters are colorless, monomeric liquids used in commercial adhesives, such as superglue

---- Mechanism of Polymerization -----

 forms a hard, white polymer in the image of the fingerprint

 common on nonporous (glass, plastic, metal)





Fingerprints stained with ninhydrin

weak marks or marks on dark surfaces may be hard to visualize

very common for porous surfaces such as paper and cardboard

### Ninhydrin Stain and Ruhemann's Purple

ninhydrin reacts with amino acids in the fingerprint secreted by the eccrine glands of the hands



#### eccrine glands

found all over the body, but particularly numerous on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet

Can be used on fingermarks over 40 years of age!!



**Fingerprints stained** with ninhydrin

#### Ninhydrin Stain and Ruhemann's Purple

ninhydrin reacts with amino acids in the fingerprint secreted by the eccrine glands of the hands

produces a dark purple compound called Ruhemann's purple









Ninhydrin

amino acid

Ruhemann's purple



Ruhemann's purple

Lennard, C. (2005) Forensic Sciences. Elsevier Ltd.

Zn and Cd complexes show good luminescence properties to enhance visualization!



Ninhydrin Stain and Ruhemann's Purple

poor contrast for dark or colored surfaces

treatment with different salt solutions can produce differently colored fingerprints due to complexation of Ruhemann's purple with the metal ions



Lennard, C. (2005) Forensic Sciences. Elsevier Ltd.



Ninhydrin Stain and Ruhemann's Purple

poor contrast for dark or colored surfaces









#### Benzo[f]ninhydrin

#### 5-methoxyninhydrin

#### 5-methylthioninhydrin

thieno[f]ninhydrin


Ninhydrin Stain and Ruhemann's Purple

Pros:

works well for paper and other porous materials

metal additives can improve contrast Cons:

contrast is poor with dark or colored materials

cannot be used on surfaces that have been wet



### 1,8-diazafluoren-9-one (DFO)

DFO reacts with amino acids in the fingerprint, but unlike ninhydrin, it must be heated for visualization



1,8-diazafluoren-9-one (DFO)

developed marks are pale pink/purple and have strong luminescence

DFO is considered to be the most sensitive commercial chemical reagent for detection of latent prints on paper



Fingerprints stained with physical developer

- It is effective even if the surface has been wet, contrary to methods that rely on amino acid detection, such as ninhydrin and DFO.
- prints appear as dark gray/ black as a result of silver metal deposition along the print ridges

#### **Physical Developer**

Physical Developer reacts to the sebaceous components of prints. It is good for visualization of prints on porous surfaces



#### sebaceous glands

primarily located on the chest, back, and forehead



**Fingerprints stained** with physical developer





### **Physical Developer (PD)**

Physical Developer reacts to the sebaceous components of prints. It is good for visualization of prints on porous surfaces

**Components of physical developer** 



citric acid buffer

silver ions

n-dodecylamine (cationic surfactant)



Fingerprints stained with physical developer

### **Physical Developer (PD)**

Physical Developer reacts to the sebaceous components of prints. It is good for visualization of prints on porous surfaces

### **Components of physical developer**



silver ions contained in a micelle that prevent premature deposition onto the surface

micelles breaks down and the metallic silver is deposited onto the print ridges.

#### compare and contrast visualization methods for latent fingerprints



Powdering: simple and low tech. Not incredibly sensitive, especially as prints age



SPR: not particularly sensitive, but good for wet objects that can't easily be removed from the crime scene and taken to a lab

1	3
112-2-2	
	4

PD: good for surfaces that have been wet, but solution is delicate to prepare and is unstable. Method is destructive



Cyanoacrylate Fuming: good form smooth, flat surfaces. Requires heating and sometimes vacuum deposition of metals



Ninhydrin: good for paper surfaces, not usable on surfaces that have been wet



DFO: most sensitive reagent for paper surfaces, not usable on surfaces that have been wet

### **Decision tree for particular substances**



Outline for the talk



Outline for the talk





Fingerprinting



**Forensic Specialties** 



## Nobel Prize in Medicine/Physiology 2022





#### Svante Pääbo, 2022

"for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominids and human evolution."